

(b) Air India operates direct flights from Calcutta to Thailand and Japan.

(c) to (e) Air India provides connections over Mumbai for passengers from Calcutta to U.A.E., Bahrain, Thailand, U.S.A. Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, U.K., Italy, Israel, Japan and Switzerland.

Mining in Gujarat

6276. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the places where mining works have been undertaken in Gujarat, specially in tribal and backward areas during the last three years, till date;

(b) the details of the achievements;

(c) whether technical assistance has been sought or proposed to be sought from some foreign institutions in the mining work in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the foreign companies have been sought for in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recommendation of Secretaries Panel of Media

6277. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee of secretaries recommended that media cross holdings be allowed between broadcast and newspaper companies as mentioned in the Business Standard dated February 22, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter;

(c) whether final decision has been taken on the recommendations of the Secretaries Panel; and

(d) the present status of the recommendations made by the panel and the time by which the Government are likely to take a final view in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Government intends to introduce a Broadcasting Bill in the current session of Parliament which, inter-alia, will address the issue of cross media holdings.

Procurement of MARR System

6278. SHRI K.P. NAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 6000 pieces of MARR system are being procured;

(b) whether suitability of the system for the country

has been examined; and

(c) the performance of the existing rural telephone network especially in Vizianagram in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The following quantities are being procured for 1997-98:-

2/15 UHF MARR System 1928 nos.

4/36 UHF MARR System 1492 nos.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The performance of the rural telephone network in Vizianagram in Andhra Pradesh is satisfactory. All the rural exchange of Vizianagram are electronic and linked with group dialling. The fault rate of rural networks is around 11 per cent.

Change in Name of Railway Station

6279. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received some suggestions to change the name of Divanapur railway station (North East Railways) to "Sukhram Dham"; and

(b) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Signalling Project

6280. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Iran has signed a contract for \$ 25 million Ahwaj Bandar E. Imam Signalling project recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time fixed for completion of the project;

(d) the mode of payment adopted for the project; and

(e) the details of projects completed by the Indian Railways in Iran so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. Subsequently, section has been changed to Shahrud-Mashad Section.

(b) The work involves providing Advanced Signalling System like Centralised Traffic Control, Relay Interlocking, Wheel Detectors, Hot-Box Detectors etc. The work basically consists of — supply of materials and supervision of installations.

(c) For supply of materials, completion period is 18 months after opening of "Letter of Credit". For supervision of installation, only man month rates have been quoted.

(d) Iran will be paying back the amount in 10 Half-yearly equal instalments. However, Iran will open the "Letter of Credit" alongwith a Mobilisation Advance of 3.75 Million USD. Iran could not open the "Letter of Credit" so far apparently due to change in site of work.

(e) A Statement is attached.

Statement

1. Feasibility-cum-cost study of 325 km long railway line between Kerman and Snurgaz (1976).
2. Track Rehabilitation Study for 92 km long B.G. line from Zahedan to Rirjeveh (1976).
3. Track Rehabilitation Study for defining 10 years action plan for Iranian State Railways (1978).
4. Preliminary short term study for rehabilitation of rolling stock and rehabilitation/strengthening of track (1980).
5. Short term study for computerisation of freight train operations and inventory management (1983).
6. Detailed planning of signalling systems for proposed marshalling yard at Aprain (1988).
7. Environmental Impact Assessment Study for Transportation system for upcoming sugar mills in Khuzestan area in Iran (1993).
8. Techno-economic Feasibility Study for setting up of a new diesel locomotive workshop for intaking rebuilding and rehabilitation of diesel locos at Karadj. The study was conducted for Iranian Islamic Republic Railways (1993).
9. Service contract for Track Maintenance of Iranian State Railways (1978-79).

Dumping of Steel Products

6281. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 10, 1997 that the steel industry has alleged large scale dumping of steel products such as HR coils, tinplates and plates by several countries, CIS countries, particularly in India;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Provision exists in the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and rules framed thereunder to investigate cases of dumping and levy an additional customs duty, if it is established that such dumping causes material injury to the domestic industry. A petition has been received on behalf of the domestic industry by the Designated Authority appointed under Customs Tariff Act, 1975 read with the rules made thereunder, alleging dumping of H.R. Coils/ Sheets/Plates/Strips imported from Russia. The application is under examination by the Designated Authority for initiation of investigation.

Problems Faced By Kerala Railway Passengers

6282. SHRI A. SAMPATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems are being faced by the Kerala Railway Passengers from Howrah during Summer vacation;

(b) if so, the the reasons for not providing any summer special train from Howrah to Trivandrum for the people of Kerala;

(c) whether such trains are proposed to be provided during the ensuing summer;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are going to make announcement in this regard now; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Though no direct special train is run from Howrah to Kerala, a bi-weekly special between Howrah and Chennai and a daily special between Chennai and Quilon are being run. A close watch is being kept on rush of traffic from Howrah towards South including Kerala and if traffic justifies additional coach to existing trains is provided for Cochin and Trivandrum.

(c) to (f) No, Sir.

Computerised Reservation Centre

6283. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide Computer reservation centre at Serampore and Tarakeswar;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be provided;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are considering to construct a Rail Yatri Niwas at Tarakeswar for the benefit of the pilgrims;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?